

Description

Putter Head

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not Applicable

FEDERAL RESEARCH STATEMENT

[0002] Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0003] Field of the Invention

[0004] The present invention relates to a putter-type club head. More specifically, the present invention relates to a putter-type club head having a multiple weighting system.

[0005] Description of the Related Art

[0006] One example of a putter is described in Schmidt et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,470,068, for a Golf Putter With Dished Bottom Surfaces. Schmidt discloses a putter composed of a single cast material and having a hollow interior.

[0007] Another example is Uebelhor, U.S. Patent Number 6,086,484, for a Golf Putter Head. Uebelhor discloses a putter head with a U-shaped body and a block within the middle. The block has a lower specific gravity than the U-shaped body.

[0008] Yet another example is Rose et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,951,412 for a Golf Club, Particularly A Putter. The Rose patent discloses a center portion composed of a light metal material and the heel and toe portions composed of heavier metals. The metals are forged or cast to create the putter head.

[0009] Another example is Fernandez, U.S. Patent Number 4,793,616 for a Golf Club. Fernandez discloses a lightweight composite material molded to a hard, high density material for distribution of mass. Fernandez discloses a composite shell with a high density insert composed of tungsten or some other high density material.

[0010] Alternative alignment means are disclosed in U.S. Patent Number 4,688,798, entitled Golf Club And Head Including Alignment Indicators, assigned to the Callaway Golf (the assignee of the Present Application), which pertinent parts are hereby incorporated by reference. The alignment means assists a golfer in properly aiming a golf ball to—

ward a hole when putting. Alternative alignment means, including a large white strip may be utilized in the present invention.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0011] One aspect of the present invention is a putter-type club head including a body and a plurality of mass members. The body preferably includes a front section, an aft section, a heel section, a toe section and a central section. The body preferably has a heel aperture defined by the heel section, central section, front section and aft section, and a toe aperture defined by the toe section, central section, front section and aft section. A face wall of the front section preferably has a first mass port and a second mass port, and a sole wall of the central section preferably has a third mass port. A first mass member is preferably disposed in the first mass port. A second mass member is preferably disposed in the second mass port. A third mass member is preferably disposed in the third mass port. The putter-type club head preferably has a moment of inertia about the I_{yy} axis through the center of gravity of the club head of at least 500 g-cm^2 .

[0012] Another aspect of the present invention is a putter-type club head including a body and at least three mass mem-

bers. The body is preferably composed of an aluminum material having a density ranging from 2.0 g/cm^3 to 3.0 g/cm^3 . The body preferably has a heel aperture and a toe aperture. The body preferably has a length from front to rear within 1.5 centimeters of the width of the body from heel to toe. The at least three mass members are preferably positioned within the body. Each of the at least three mass members is preferably composed of a material having a density ranging from 6.0 g/cm^3 to 20.0 g/cm^3 .

[0013] Yet another aspect of the present invention is a putter-type club head including a body composed of a material having a density ranging from 0.90 g/cm^3 to 6.0 g/cm^3 and three mass members threadingly engaged within three mass ports of the body. The body includes a front section, an aft section, a heel section, a toe section and a central section. The body has a heel aperture defined by the heel section, central section, front section and aft section, and a toe aperture defined by the toe section, central section, front section and aft section. The face wall of the front section has a first mass port and a second mass port, and a sole wall of the central section has a third mass port. Each of the mass members is composed of a material having a density ranging from 6.0 g/cm^3 to 20.0

g/cm³.

[0014] Yet another aspect of the present invention is a putter-type club head including a body having a mass ranging from 100 grams to 400 grams, and three mass members threadingly engaged within three mass ports of the body. Each of the mass members preferably has a mass of at least 10 grams.

[0015] Yet another aspect of the present invention is a putter-type club head including a body, four mass members threadingly engaged within mass ports in the body, and a crown plate.

[0016] Yet another aspect of the present invention is a putter-type club head including a body composed of an aluminum material having a density ranging from 2.0 g/cm³ to 3.0 g/cm³, and at least three mass members positioned within the body. The body preferably has a heel aperture and a toe aperture. The body preferably has a length from front to rear within 1.5 centimeters of the width of the body from heel to toe, and a height of from 1.0 centimeters to 2.5 centimeters. Each of the at least three mass members is composed of a material having a density ranging from 6.0 g/cm³ to 20.0 g/cm³.

[0017] Having briefly described the present invention, the above

and further objects, features and advantages thereof will be recognized by those skilled in the pertinent art from the following detailed description of the invention when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

- [0018] FIG. 1 is an exploded view of a putter-type club head.
- [0019] FIG. 2 is a top perspective view of a putter-type club head.
- [0020] FIG. 3 is a top plan view of the putter-type club head of FIG. 2.
- [0021] FIG. 4 is a front plan view of the putter-type club head of FIG. 2.
- [0022] FIG. 5 is a toe side view of the putter-type club head of FIG. 2.
- [0023] FIG. 6 is a bottom plan view of the putter-type club head of FIG. 2.
- [0024] FIG. 7 is a back plan view of the putter-type club head of FIG. 2.
- [0025] FIG. 8 is a top plan of a putter-type club head illustrating the triangular weighting of the putter-type club head.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- [0026] As shown in FIGS. 1–8, a putter-type club head of the present invention is generally designated 20. The club

head 20 has a body 22 that is preferably composed of a cast metal. In a preferred embodiment, the body 22 is composed of a material having a density ranging from 0.90 g/cm^3 to 6.0 g/cm^3 . A preferred metal for the body 22 is an aluminum alloy. Alternative materials for the body 22 include aluminum, titanium, titanium alloys, magnesium, magnesium alloys, and the like. The body 22 is preferably formed as a single cast structure using known investment casting techniques. However, those skilled in the pertinent art will recognize that alternative forming techniques such as milling, welding forged or formed pieces, and the like may be utilized without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention.

[0027] The body 22 preferably has a front section 24, an aft or rear section 26, a heel section 28, a toe section 30 and a central section 32. The central section 32, the heel section 28, the rear section 26 and the front section 24 preferably define a heel aperture 34. The central section 32, the toe section 30, the rear section 26 and the front section 24 preferably define a toe aperture 36. The front section 24 includes a face 38 that is preferably milled. The upper surface of the body 22 defines a crown 40 and the lower surface of the body 22 defines a sole 42. A central slot 62

is preferably located in the sole 42 of the front section 24. A hosel 80 is preferably located in the crown 40 of the front section 24 for receiving a shaft, not shown.

[0028] The body 22 preferably has a plurality of ports for placement of mass. In a preferred embodiment, the body 22 has a first mass port 50, a second mass port 52 and a third mass port 54. The first mass port 50 is located in the heel side of the front section 24 and accessible through an opening in the face 38. The second mass port 52 is located in the toe side of the front section 24 and accessible through an opening in the face 38. The third mass port 54 is located in the central section 32 and accessible through an opening in the sole 42. Each of the first mass port 50 and the second mass port 52 preferably has a depth of approximately 1.5 centimeters ("cm") and a diameter of approximately 1 cm. The third mass port 54 preferably extends through the body 22 and preferably has a diameter of approximately 2 cm.

[0029] In a preferred embodiment, the putter-type club head 20 has a plurality of mass members for weighting the putter-type club head 20. In a preferred embodiment, the putter-type club head 20 has a first mass member 56, a second mass member 58 and a third mass member 60. Prefer-

ably, the first mass member 56 is positioned within the first mass port 50, the second mass member 58 is positioned within the second mass port 52, and the third mass member 60 is positioned within the third mass port 54.

[0030] In a preferred embodiment, each of the first mass member 56, second mass member 58 and third mass member 60 is composed of a material having a density greater than the density of the material of the body 22. In a preferred embodiment, each of the first mass member 56, second mass member 58 and third mass member 60 is composed of a material having a density ranging from 6.0 g/cm^3 to 20.0 g/cm^3 . In a preferred embodiment, each of the first mass member 56, second mass member 58 and third mass member 60 is composed of a brass material (density of approximately 8.0 g/cm^3). Alternatively, each of the first mass member 56, second mass member 58 and third mass member 60 is composed of a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, tungsten, silver, gold, nickel, nickel based alloys, iron based alloys, tin, copper and platinum.

[0031] In a preferred embodiment, each of the first mass member 56, second mass member 58 and third mass member 60 is threadingly engaged to and removable from a corre-

sponding one of the first mass port 50, the second mass port 52 or the third mass port 54 thereby allowing for adjustments to the mass of the putter type club head 20. Alternatively, each of the first mass member 56, second mass member 58 and third mass member 60 is adhesively bonded or press-fitted to a corresponding one of the first mass port 50, the second mass port 52 or the third mass port 54.

[0032] The body 22 preferably weighs from 100 grams to 400 grams, more preferably from 150 grams to 250 grams, even more preferably from 175 grams to 225 grams and most preferably 200 grams. The first mass member 56 and the second mass member 58 are preferably equal in mass and preferably each has a mass ranging from 10 grams to 100 grams, more preferably from 15 grams to 50 grams, and most preferably 25 grams. The third mass member 60 preferably has a mass greater than the mass of the first mass member 56 and the second mass member 58, and preferably has a mass ranging from 10 grams to 200 grams, more preferably from 20 grams to 150 grams, and most preferably 50 grams.

[0033] In a preferred embodiment, the first mass member 56, the second mass member 58 and third mass member 60 are

all composed of a similar material, most preferably a brass material. In an alternative embodiment, the third mass member 60 is composed of a different material, preferably a denser material such as a tungsten material.

[0034] As shown in FIG. 5, the body 22 preferably has a length, L , from the face 38 to the rearward most end of the rear section 26 preferably ranging from 6 cm to 14 cm, more preferably from 8 cm to 12 cm, and most preferably 9 cm. As shown in FIG. 6, the body 22 has a width, W , from the farthest edge of the heel section 28 to the farthest edge of the toe section 30 preferably ranging from 6 cm to 14 cm, more preferably from 8 cm to 12 cm, and most preferably 10 cm. In one alternative embodiment, the body 22 has a length, L , that is equal to the width, W .

[0035] As shown in FIG. 7, the body 22 has a height, H , the farthest edge of the crown 40 to the farthest edge of the sole 42 preferably ranging from 1 cm to 3 cm, more preferably from 2 cm to 2.75 cm, and most preferably 2.5 cm.

[0036] The central section 32 preferably has a main recess 72 formed in the crown 40. The main recess 72 provides access to the third mass port 54, an auxiliary mass port 74 and an auxiliary slot 76. A crown plate 70 preferably covers the main recess 72. The crown plate 72 preferably has

a length of approximately 8.3 cm, and preferably has a thickness, T , of approximately 0.6 cm. The crown plate 72 is preferably composed of a non-metal material such as a thermoplastic or thermosetting polymer. A preferred material is a thermoplastic polyurethane. In a preferred embodiment, the crown plate 70 preferably has an alignment mechanism for assisting a golfer during a putt. A preferred alignment mechanism is disclosed in U.S. Patent Number 6,506,125, which pertinent parts are hereby incorporated by reference. The crown plate 70 is preferably removable thereby allowing for various alignment mechanisms to be utilized with the putter-type club head 20.

[0037] As shown in FIG. 3, each of the heel aperture 34 and the toe aperture 36 preferably has a length, L_s , of approximately 6 cm and a width, W_s , of approximately 2 cm. The heel section interior wall 28a, the toe section interior wall, not shown, and the central section interior wall 32b define the depth of each of the heel aperture 34 and toe aperture 36, both of which extend through the body 22.

[0038] The heel aperture 34, the toe aperture 36, the central slot 62, the auxiliary mass port 74, and the auxiliary slot 76 remove mass from the interior of the body 22 thereby increasing the moments of inertia of the putter-type club

head 20. The moments of inertia of the putter-type club head 20 are further increased by the placement of the first mass member 56, the second mass member 58 and the third mass member 60 toward the perimeter of the body 22. In a preferred embodiment, the I_{yy} inertial value through the center of gravity, CG, is at least 500 g-cm^2 and more preferably approximately 800 g-cm^2 .

[0039] As shown in FIG. 8, the triangular weighting of the putter-type club head 20 preferably positions the first mass member 56, the second mass member 58 and the third mass member 60 within a triangle 100 defined by the centers, 102 a, 102b, and 102c of the first mass member 56, the second mass member 58 and the third mass member 60, respectively. In a preferred embodiment, the triangle 100 is equilateral with each side approximately 7.5 cm in length.

[0040] From the foregoing it is believed that those skilled in the pertinent art will recognize the meritorious advancement of this invention and will readily understand that while the present invention has been described in association with a preferred embodiment thereof, and other embodiments illustrated in the accompanying drawings, numerous changes, modifications and substitutions of equivalents

may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention which is intended to be unlimited by the foregoing except as may appear in the following appended claims. Therefore, the embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined in the following appended claims.